L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

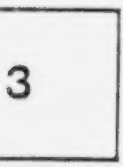
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

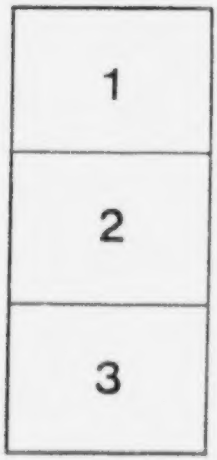
Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

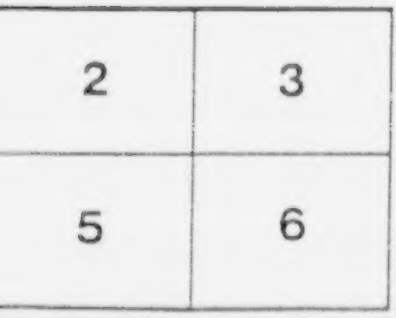
Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole → signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ▽ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.







Why Not?

AN OPEN LETTER
BY
JAS. R. ROAF

JL192
R62

TORONTO, 27th Nov., 1917

The Hon. M. G. Brambaugh,
Governor of Pennsylvania,
Harrisburgh, Pa.

YOUR HONOUR:—I enclose you copy of an open letter I have written, giving a proposition which I hope will be discussed throughout the English speaking nations. As it may be considered that I am more interested in the State of Pennsylvania than in any other State of the Union, I send you the first copy.

My great-great-grandfather, Henry Dennis, and his son, John Dennis, were requested to leave Philadelphia as their political views did not agree with those of the parties in control of the Government in 1778. As they could not take their real estate with them, it was taken possession of by those who requested them to leave.

John Dennis was subsequently put in charge of the ship building yards at Kingston in Canada and was the builder of the big St. Laurence that swept Lake Ontario in 1814, so it might be said that there was a great error in judgment in having him leave the State. His granddaughter, my aunt, was wife of the late W. H. Allen, an honoured president of Girard College, Philadelphia. My eldest grandson was born in Pennsylvania and he is at present in the State, where most of his mother's relatives live; his father, my elder son, is at the front in France, taking his part in the fight for the freedom of the world; my other son is doing his duty near Palestine.

I have submitted the substance of the letter to men who hold high position and are well thought of, to men of U. E. L. descent like myself, to United States citizens who are in Ontario, and they all have expressed approval of this suggestion for "reciprocity in votes" if you might use that term in designating the matter that I suggest in the letter. I am, Yours truly,

JAS. R. ROAF.

TORONTO, 27th Nov., 1917.

SIR:—

We, the great English speaking democracies of the world, have now our armies fighting side by side in a foreign land for the peace of the world, for democracy and freedom of life and thought for the small nations as well as for the individual.

The men will return from the front to their respective homes with new ideals of brotherhood and respect, friendship and admiration, for those with whom they have co-operated in this great conflict.

Soldiers of the British Dominions, including the Home Land, are glad to honour American soldiers who are in the same fight with them and I am sure that American soldiers would be glad to honour their comrades of the British Dominions, but why should this feeling of brotherhood be confined to the men who are or have been at the front? Why should it stop there?

There were differences between the North and South sixty years ago; they have disappeared. There were differences one hundred and forty years ago between the American Colonies and Great Britain, or rather the American Colonies flew to arms against the claim of a German who called the King of England was asserting "the

divine right of Kings." You, by arms, ended that as far as the United States were concerned. We put an end to it by constitutional methods. A remembrance of it should not now interfere with the cordial relations that should exist between the English speaking peoples!

Our flags are the same colours, red, white and blue, both symbolic, one the triple cross of the patron Saints of three peoples, English, Irish and Scotch; the other the symbol of various States joined together as one. The French flag is also red, white and blue, symbolic of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Both have laws based on the same common law and upon the Ten Commandments given by Jehovah ages ago.

Would it not be a good thing if each nation made a closer study of the constitution and practices of the other nations, and if the British Dominions can find any points which would be of advantage to them in United States political methods or institutions why should they not be adopted?

If the United States can find good points in the administration of any part of the British Dominions that the United States do not have, why should they not use them?

Many people think the form of the British Government follows closely that of the old Jewish Government set forth in the Old Testament.

Would it not be fitting to celebrate the winning of the victory over militarism and the triumph of democracy by extending this principal of comradeship and co-operation.

A closer association of all the British speaking republics, for that is what in fact we all are, should tend to guarantee and perpetuate the peace and prosperity of the world.

The democracies springing from a common stock have like problems to solve in the education and uplifting in democratic principals of the people in India and the Philippines.

The following case appears absurd in its results. Two men, A and B, marry sisters, they are engaged in the one business, A a United States citizen managing works in Buffalo, B a Canadian citizen managing works in Toronto. Each has two sons, brought up to play together, educated in a like manner, the firm opens branches in Honolulu and Australia, a son of each member goes to each place; in Honolulu the son of A is a citizen, the son of B a foreigner; in Australia the son of A is a foreigner, the

son of B a citizen. Is it common sense to have cousins so divided?

In Great Britain, Canada, Australia and the South African Dominions a native born citizen of any of the countries going into another of them has rights of citizenship without having to take out any papers or renounce any allegiance.

Yet each of the countries is as independent of the other, if not more so, than any State of the Union in regard to the other States.

Each country has its own laws, controls its own business and has different methods of placing voters on the voters' list.

It would need very little legislation to have the laws of the United States and the British Dominions adjusted so that native born United States citizens admitted into any British Dominion would have the same rights and privileges therein as British born subjects have and also that native born British citizens of any of the Dominions admitted into the United States would have therein the rights and privileges of native born United States citizens. Note the words "native born" and "admitted into," as they guarantee at least twenty-one years of residence and education in an English speaking democratic country and also ensure that the

party admitted complies with the laws regulating the admission of aliens into the country, thus keeping out any undesirable individuals. The local requirements for being placed on the voters' list would also have to be complied with in the respective countries.

The above suggestion is given as a question to be discussed and considered in the various countries interested, the writer believing that the discussion will lead many people to an investigation of the constitution and methods of all the nations and of ascertaining the good points of each and how closely they can be assimilated. The United States has a president and a direct vote. The British Dominions have responsible governments.

The consideration of this question should help to end some misunderstandings. For example, the writer has been surprised at the number of United States citizens who think that Canada and the other British Dominions pay taxes or tribute to Great Britain, and who do not realize the independence and freedom of each British Dominion.

There is also an idea with many people that the King of England has autocratic powers such as the rulers in Austria and Germany exercise. They do not know that

the King of England holds his position by virtue of an Act of Parliament; in other words, the English people have elected a family and have made certain regulations under which it holds its social position and the real ruler of each British Dominion is the Cabinet elected and controlled by the people of the Dominion. How many people in the United States know that the Governor of a State has more autocratic power than even the King of Great Britain or the Prime Minister?

It is possible for the United States, Great Britain and the various Dominions to work in closer harmony for the advantage of the world; the question is, How can we best do it? I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. R. ROAF.